MEMORIAL TO THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF THE COURT PARTY.

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MEMORIAL

TO THE

Members of Parliament

OF THE

COURT PARTY.

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ALL the Factions and Cabals of this Kingdom, that in different times have had distinct Names, have all of them pretended to be in quest of the Publick Good, as their Chief end; But too too often this Nation hath been imposed on by Self-interessed People, under that Noble Title which hath only served to make their party Popular, and to be a palatable Vehicle for unjust Practices.

You then of the Court Party, who value your selves most upon love to your Country, either you must let it exert it self in some special manner, which will contribute visibly for the Advantage of this Nation: Or, People will believe that Zeal, which you pretend for the Interest of your Country, to be only an Empty Title, for wheedling well-meaning People into a Belief of your Sincerity.

'Tis strange, that now a-days some persons hugg themselves, for having the Wit to conceal their little care of the publick Good and Honour of *Scotland*, with this *saying*; That as there are many Men, so have they different Views of the Goodness

neſs or Illneſs of Actions: And conſequently every one, who moves according to his Notion of things, ought to be Reputed an Honeſt Perſon. By ſuch an Argument, I Confeſs, that the greateſt Crimes, Mortals have been guilty of, can be palliat. For what had theſe Regicids more to ſay, when they were arraigned after the barbarous Murther of King *Charles* the firſt, but that they were of Opinion that, ſuch an Action was both commendable in the ſight of God and Man? Or if ſuch arguing be allowed, why ſhould we bawl out ſo much againſt thoſe Courtiers of the laſt Reign, who drove Affairs ſo faſt till all honeſt Subjects became weary of their Obedience to their King, and he at laſt obliged to leave his Crowns.

If People would be but at the pains to conſider, when once there are ſome *Poſtulata's* and *Axioms* granted, that of neceſſity there muſt be ſome infallible Truths, which can be drawn from them, and which every Body will acknowledge as ſuch, provided they have the uſe of their Reaſon: So likewiſe it is, That when once a mixt Government is defined to conſiſt of ſuch and ſuch Fundamentals, of Neceſſity there muſt be ſome things agreeable, and others diſagreeable to its Nature, which with a Demonſtration appear to every unbyaſſed thinking Man; So that it will follow, that none of the Court Party ought to have refuge to Quibles to excuſe themſelves to their Conſtituents and Friends for conſenting to Laws that are againſt the Intereſt of this Kingdom.

Tho' Reaſon may appear with two Faces, one Falſe and another True; Nevertheleſs, the things that are uſeful to to this Nation, at preſent, or diſadvantageous to it, are clear to every Member of Parliament, that will reflect upon the Errors of former Reigns. *Et equitas ipſa per ſe lucet. Cicero.*

Things Agreeable to our Government and preſent Circumſtances are,

FIRST, frequent new Parliaments, that may ſit and do Buſineſs, without the trouble of being Adjourned from time

time to time; becauſe any Nation, whoſe Conſtitution of Government is out of Order, requires a perpetual and vigilant Care to retrive it from all Misfortunes that it is lyable to, and to provide for its Security in every change of Affairs of *Europe*: Much rather this Kingdom, whoſe King is a *Monarch* of more conſiderable Countries than *Scotland*, in which he never was nor, perhaps, will be, and conſequently knows no more of it's buſineſs, than they that have the Management of it, are pleaſed to repreſent to him.

Secondly, Good Laws againſt all Papiſts; by which, with the hazard of loſing their Eſtates, they may be induced to examine the Religion of their Country: Which no doubt, upon an Impartial Enquiry, will be found to be the moſt Conſonant to Scripture, and Reaſon. For Liberty of Conſcience is to be given only to every Sect of Religion, whoſe Principles are not Deſtructive to that Civil Government, whoſe Protection it enjoys.

Laſtly, A *Habeas Corpus*, for that is the true Badge of a Subject that pretends to Liberty and Property; Becauſe, if Men can be Impriſoned or Puniſhed without knowing a Reaſon, a mixt Government is much worſe than an abſolute: For ſuch a Name ſerves only to Cheat Men to Writ, Act, or Speak in defence of its Intereſt, which in it ſelf is a Tyranny. Whereas a Wiſe Man, who once knows that he is Subject to an abſolute Monarch, Prudence will teach him to ſuffer Injuſtice without Murmuring.

Things Diſadvantageous to our preſent Government and Circumſtances are,

FIRST, A ſtanding Army in time of Peace; Becauſe, every unneceſſar Expenſe ſhould be avoided, eſpecially by us who have ſo little Money, and ſo bad a Trade. Nor is it a ſufficient Argument for keeping an extraordinary Force upon foot, that the reſt of *Europe* are like to be engaged in a War by reaſon of the King of *Spains* Death; becauſe we have

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no Buſineſs with any Nation of *Europe* at preſent, and conſequently no Obligation to aſſiſt any of them, nor any fear of being invaded our ſelves. Nor can the Defence of the Proteſtant Religion be a Pretext, ſeing our King is in League with the *French* King to aſſiſt him in ſeizing ſome of the King of *Spains* Dominions. Nor ought fair Promiſes for mantaining of Presbytrie bring that Party to any Compliance in things which are inconſiſtent with the Intereſt of their Country; for tis known that his preſent Majeſty is of the Epiſcopal ſide, when he is in *England*; and whether he would be Presbyterian or not, when in *Scotland*, we muſt ſuſpend our Judgment, till we have the Honour of ſeeing him here.

In my Opinion, as the Security of the Kings Government is chiefly owing to the Affections of his Subjects, ſo is the Continuance of the Presbyterian Church-Government in *Scotland*. For, if they begin to find, that the Presbyterian Miniſters prefer their own Humor and Politicks to the Honour and Safety of this Nation, and that Presbytrie ſerves to be a Pretext for ill Practices of a Court Party, it's to be feared, that the Subjects of *Scotland* will treat it, whenever an Occaſion offers it ſelf, as they did after the Reſtauration of King *Charles* the Second. Whereas, if we Presbyterians conſult nothing but the Glory of God, and the true Intereſt of this Kingdom, Presbytrie will become ſo agreeable to all ſenſible good honeſt Men, that ſucceeding Parliaments will make it their buſineſs, to ſecure it from all Enemies.

It may be moved for keeping the preſent ſtanding Army, that their Number does not exceed 3000 or 4000; But it can be Anſwered, That there is a difference in maintaining 3000 or 4000 Men in three or four Regiments, and in keeping them divided in eight Battalions of Foot, two Regiments of Dragoons, beſides the Horſe Guards, as they are at preſent. Becauſe, 'tis in their Officers power to compleat their reſpective Battalions, which will make up 8000 Men or more, in place of 4000. So the Parliament may prevent all the In-

inconveniencies this Countrey is lyable to, by a ſtanding Army of ſuch a Number, when 2000 Men poſted in convenient places of the Kingdom, are capable to ſecure Peace to all its Inhabitants, and 22000 Pounds *Sterlin* will entertain them yearly.

There ſhould be a Committee of Parliament appointed to examine the Officers Arrears, that ways and means may be fallen on to clear them. Which Committee ſhould have a power to call to an account every one who hath meddled with the Money that hath been appointed to pay the Army for ſeveral Years bypaſt.

Secondly, The Tack of Cuſtoms in favour of the Burrows ought to be broken, becauſe it is a Grievance to the Nation, and occaſioneth that State of Parliament to ly under the Cenſure of moſt Men for Bribery. And no doubt, but moſt of the Burrows will conſent to the Annulling of it; for by an Inquiſition into the Management of that Tack, it will be found, That there are only a few particular Men Gainers, whom all the World may know, without the Trouble of Naming them.

Laſtly, The laying many Months Ceſs upon Land-Proprietars in time of Peace, when there are Eighty Six Thouſand Pounds *Sterlin* of Crown-Rent, of which His Majeſty never touches a Farthing: Therefore, if the Parliament would be pleaſed to enquire how it is managed, and all uſeleſs Penſions taken away, no doubt, but it would be a great Service to the King, and eaſe the Nation of Ceſs, Pole-Money, *&c.*

Now, if you of the Court Party will avoid what is inconſiſtent with the Nature of the *Scottiſh* Government, and promote every good Law which ſerves to ſtrengthen it in its Fundamentals; then will you have reaſon to brag, that all your Endeavours are for the good of your Countrey. And if the Countrey Party don't join with you for mutual Counſel in ſupporting the Body Politick, then will People be convinced, that ſome of the Countrey Party act only out of Self-

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Intereſt: And ſo you will infallibly be beloved, and followed by every good Countrey-Man. For I believe, That the Reaſon the Affections of the whole Nation at preſent are tyed to the Countrey Party, is, That they are perſwaded of their Sincerity and good Intentions for the Welfare of the Countrey. For, if who ſhould be the greateſt Man of the Government were the only Queſtion in Debate; No Body, whoſe Intereſt it is to have good Laws, would be at the trouble to concern himſelf with their Affairs, but leave it to Fortune to decide Matters amongſt them.

But at preſent, the Buſineſs of the Parliament is to declare this Kingdom a free Nation, and to put it in a State of Thriving, and not to neglect its Affairs, as other Parliaments have done, to Complement their Kings. If you then do your Duty, you'll have the Thanks of all good *Scots-Men*, the Praiſe of all the World, whoſe Eyes are fixed on you, and evite the Contempt and Deriſion of your Neighbour Nation. 'Tis beg'd of you therefore, in Name of your Countrey-Men, your Friends, and of your Poſterity, That you preſer every Point of the Publick to your private Intereſts: And never bring in *Caledonia*, but in the ſame Bill that ſhall be for granting a Subſidy to His Majeſty. For, when a *Weſt-Indian* Voyage was fatal to the great Sir *Walter Rawleigh*, we know not what Effect it may have upon ſome of our ſelves.

All thoſe who Traitors to their Country prove,
A preſſing Guilt their gloomy minds ſhall move;
Tho Bribes or Favour ſhall aſſert their Cauſe,
Pronounce them Guiltleſs, and elude the Laws,
None quits himſelf, his own impartial Thought
Will Damn, and Conſcience will record the Fault.

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From internal evidence
I should say this book
was written about
1700. On page 18 I
have mention of the
Treaty of the Partition
Treaties. On page 6
the reference to "Calabria"
either means "Darien"
or does not make sense.

D
Scott
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